



TESTIMONY

Testimony to the Education Committee Public Hearing on February 22, 2023

In Support of:

SB 1028 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, Specifically Section 3

Good afternoon Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and other distinguished members of the Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Section 3, SB 1028 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

My name is Dr. Katherine Roe and I am the Chair of Education & Educational Psychology Department at Western Connecticut State University. I am also the current President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE-CT), a group of 13 CT public and private universities and colleges with Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) whose primary goal is to promote and support high quality teaching, education, and leadership in Connecticut schools

AACTE-CT is acutely aware of the need to attract aspiring teachers and retain current teachers in order to address the current teacher shortage. We recognize the challenges that aspiring and current teachers face, especially since having navigated the COVID pandemic and still dealing with its aftermath. Generally speaking, we are supportive of Section 3 of SB 1028 which would update teacher evaluation and support programs. Some of the various changes would allow the State Board of Education to modify guidelines for a model teacher evaluation and support program.

Also, the AACTE-CT wants to take this opportunity and seek your support for funding going forward to help address the teacher shortage and retention issues facing Connecticut and its school systems. We appreciate that many elected officials during this 2023 session have already proposed legislation that focuses on ways to attract and retain teachers in the profession. We are hopeful that additional funding and financial aid will be forthcoming to help offset the costs of teacher certification. This financial burden could serve as a barrier for many teacher candidates especially those that are underrepresented in our classrooms. In addition to tuition, teacher candidates also incur other expenses including assessments fees, fingerprinting, and certification related costs required for certification and licensure.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and submit comments in support of Section 3 of SB 1028.

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